

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 13-19 and 41-53 are pending. Claims 42, 45, 48-50, and 52 are amended. Please cancel claim 41. New claim 54 has been added. Therefore, claims 13-19 and 42-54 are presented for examination.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination. Claims 13-19 and 53 are allowed. Claims 42-47 and 51 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Examiner rejected claims 41 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,152,679 issued to Chen. Examiner rejected claims 41 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,416,056 issued to Takahashi. Examiner rejected claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,152,679 issued to Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,208,656 issued to Matsuyama, et al. Examiner rejected claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,152,679 issued to Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,393,697 issued to Chang, et al.

Applicants have made claim 42 independent, by incorporating the limitations of claim 41. Claim 41 has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 42, and claims 43-52 which depend on it, are in condition for allowance.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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